

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

28. [Currently Amended] A slurry mixer for preparing slurry, the slurry mixer comprising:

a substantially cylindrical side wall with a lower end and an upper end;

a base wall enclosing the lower end of the side wall and defining a mixing region in

which the slurry is prepared;

a top wall enclosing the upper end of the side wall;

a first stirring apparatus fixedly mounted in the mixing region, wherein the first stirring

apparatus has ~~first mixing elements attached thereto a plurality of upper mixing~~
members that extend from the upper member; and

a second stirring apparatus rotatably mounted in the mixing region, wherein the second

stirring apparatus has ~~second mixing elements attached thereto a lower support~~
member and a plurality of lower mixing members that extend from the lower
support member, wherein the ~~first mixing elements upper mixing members~~ and
the ~~second mixing elements lower mixing members~~ at least partially engage each
other as the second stirring apparatus is rotated to remove slurry therefrom, and
wherein the ~~second mixing elements at least one of the lower mixing members~~

engage the side wall as the second stirring apparatus is rotated to remove slurry from the side wall.

29. [Currently Amended] The slurry mixer of claim 28, wherein the ~~first stirring apparatus includes an upper member and a plurality of upper mixing members that extend from the upper member~~ lower mixing member engages the base wall as the second stirring apparatus is rotated.

30. [Cancelled]

31. [Currently Amended] The slurry mixer of claim [[30]] 28, wherein the upper mixing members are offset from the lower mixing members so that the upper mixing members pass between the lower mixing members as the second stirring apparatus is rotated.

32. [Original] The slurry mixer of claim 31, wherein the upper mixing members and the lower mixing members engage each other as they move passed each other to remove slurry therefrom.

33. [Original] The slurry mixer of claim 28, and further comprising a dispensing auger positioned in the mixing region proximate the base wall for dispensing slurry from the mixing region.

34. [Original] The slurry mixer of claim 28, and further comprising a motor operably connected to the second stirring apparatus for rotating the second stirring apparatus.

35. [Cancelled]

36. [Currently Amended] The slurry mixer of claim [[35]] 28, wherein the top wall has a cement feed port, a water feed port and an admixture feed port.

37. [Currently Amended] The slurry mixer of claim [[35]] 28, and further comprising a dust collection apparatus operably connected to the slurry mixer.

46. [Currently Amended] A slurry mixer for preparing slurry, the slurry mixer comprising:

a side wall with a lower end and an upper end;

a base wall enclosing the lower end of the side wall and defining a mixing region in which slurry may be prepared;

a top wall enclosing the upper end of the side wall;

a first stirring apparatus fixedly mounted in the mixing region, wherein the first stirring apparatus has ~~first mixing elements attached thereto a plurality of upper mixing members that extend from the upper member~~; and

a second stirring apparatus rotatably mounted in the mixing region, wherein the second stirring apparatus has ~~second mixing elements attached thereto a lower support member and a plurality of lower mixing members that extend from the lower support member, wherein the first mixing elements and the second mixing elements at least partially engage each other as the second stirring apparatus is rotated to remove slurry therefrom upper mixing members wipe slurry from the lower support member, wherein the lower mixing members wipe slurry from the~~

top wall, and wherein the second mixing elements at least one of the lower mixing members engage the side wall as the second stirring apparatus is rotated to remove slurry from the side wall.

47. [Currently Amended] The slurry mixer of claim 46, wherein the ~~first stirring apparatus includes an upper member and a plurality of upper mixing members that extend from the upper member~~ lower mixing member engages the base wall as the second stirring apparatus is rotated.

48. [Cancelled]

49. [Currently Amended] The slurry mixer of claim [[48]] 46, wherein the upper mixing members are offset from the lower mixing members so that the upper mixing members pass between the lower mixing members as the second stirring apparatus is rotated.

50. [Previously Presented] The slurry mixer of claim 49, wherein the upper mixing members and the lower mixing members engage each other as they move past each other to remove slurry therefrom.

51. [Previously Presented] The slurry mixer of claim 46, and further comprising a dispensing auger positioned in the mixing region proximate the base wall for dispensing slurry from the mixing region.

52. [Previously Presented] The slurry mixer of claim 46, and further comprising a motor operably connected to the second stirring apparatus for rotating the second stirring apparatus.

53. [Cancelled]

54. [Currently Amended] The slurry mixer of claim [[53]] 46, wherein the top wall has a cement feed port, a water feed port and an admixture feed port.

55. [Currently Amended] The slurry mixer of claim [[53]] 46, and further comprising a dust collection apparatus operably connected to the slurry mixer.

56. [New] A method of operating a slurry mixer, the method comprising:

providing a slurry mixer having a substantially cylindrical side wall, a base wall and a top wall, wherein the side wall has a lower end and an upper end, wherein the base wall encloses the lower end of the side wall, wherein the top wall encloses the upper end of the side wall, and wherein the side wall, the base wall and the top wall define a mixing region;

mounting a first stirring apparatus in the mixing region, wherein the first stirring apparatus includes a plurality of upper mixing members that extend from the top wall;

rotatably mounting a second stirring apparatus in the mixing region, wherein the second stirring apparatus includes a lower support member and a plurality of lower mixing members that extend from the lower support member;

feeding slurry components into the mixing region;

rotating the second stirring apparatus in the mixing region to form a slurry from the slurry components;
wiping slurry from the lower support member with the upper mixing members;
wiping slurry from the top wall with the lower mixing members; and
wiping slurry from the side wall with one of the lower mixing members.

57. [New] The method of claim 56, and further comprising wiping slurry from the base wall with the lower support member.

58. [New] The method of claim 56, and further comprising wiping slurry from the lower support members with the upper support members.

59. [New] The method of claim 56, wherein the upper mixing members are offset from the lower mixing members so that the upper mixing members pass between the lower mixing members as the second stirring apparatus is rotated.

60. [New] The method of claim 56, and further comprising dispensing slurry from the mixing region with a dispensing auger.